



CALPEEK

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CAMPAIGN 1990: 3 SPECIAL ELECTIONS APR. 10.

Editor's note: Voters in two Los Angeles State Senate districts and one San Diego Assembly district go to the polls April 10. Here is a CALPEEK report on these 3 special elections...

● 26th S.D. - This is the State Senate district of former Sen. Joseph Montoya (D-El Monte), who resigned his seat after his Feb. 2nd conviction for political corruption. This area in East L.A. County is Demo turf and so it is likely that Assemblyman Charles Calderon (D-Montello) will be elected. But this doesn't mean it will be all that easy, according to Calderon consultant Larry Sheingold. Problem: there are a number of regularly scheduled city elections taking place the same day. Voters wishing to cast ABSENTEE BALLOTS may be surprised to find out that the 26th S.D. candidates don't appear on CITY BALLOTS. Therefore, voters have to request a SECOND absentee ballot from the COUNTY to vote in the 26th S.D. special. Confusing, but Calderon should still win a majority anyway...

● 31st S.D. - Another eastern L.A. Co. senate district features GOP Assemblyman Frank Hill of Whittier against underdog Demo activist Janice Graham, a solid PRO-CHOICE candidate. This district, which was until recently represented by Bill Campbell (R), is SOLID Republican territory. But one can never tell. Hill has the FBI Sting inquiry hanging over his head and Graham is bashing him right and left. She has just enough money for a few mailers and the hope is to catch Hill asleep at the wheel. That seems doubtful, but one can never tell...

● 78th A.D. - This is the San Diego Assembly district that once belonged to now State Sen. Lucy Killea (D). The front-runner is Democrat Mike Gotch, a popular

former San Diego councilman. The big question about this race is whether Gotch has the horses & mules to win a MAJORITY vote. And this is what has San Diego Republicans in a slight panic...

...Until very recently, there were three GOP candidates in the contest: Jeff Marston; Helen Rowe; and Jane Ramshaw. But when Demo attorney Byron Georgiou dropped out of the 78th A.D. special, Gotch began picking up BIG MO. How to stop him from winning outright became a GOP problem...

...Solution: Rowe and Ramshaw have stopped campaigning and have now publicly endorsed Marston. In fact, the GOP establishment is now behind Marston, which is good news for him...

...In terms of Gotch, he doesn't have a free Demo ride, because he faces Deputy AG Howard Wayne, who is out there walking precinct and taking shots at Gotch with direct mail. Key issue: the Belmont Park development, which even Gotch has admitted was not one of his better votes while on the council. Still, Gotch has lots of clout and name ID, not to mention a solid campaign organization, with an aggressive ABSENTEE BALLOT program. If Gotch can get about 53% of the ABs after the polls close, he might have a shot winning a majority. Otherwise, it's a June 5 runoff, probably with Marston. Stay tuned...

PLEASE RETURN YOUR CALPEEK READERSHIP POLL.

If you haven't already done so, please fill out your Early Spring CALPEEK Readership Survey and send it back A.S.A.P. We plan to start tabulating sometime around Apr. 14-15. Hopefully, you'll see the first results in our Apr. 23rd issue of CALPEEK...

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CAMPAIGN 1990: CONSERVATIVE CRA REFUSES TO BACK WILSON FOR GOVERNOR AT RECENT CONFAB..

Editor's note: The 6,000-member Calif. Republican Assembly(CRA) met the last weekend in March in U.S. Sen. Pete Wilson's home town of San Diego. The message from CRA delegates to Wilson: WE DON'T LIKE YOUR BRAND OF POLITICS. Here is CALPEEK's update & analysis...

...This story got nothing more than a blurb on the inside pages of the L.A. Times' Apr. 2 edition. It should have received more attention because it was and is a political story of importance. The conservative CRA delegates voted 170 to 78 for a NO ENDORSEMENT position for governor. A few minutes later, the delegates also refused to endorse GOP Controller candidate Matthew Fong, even though Fong doesn't have a GOP primary challenge...

...Why did Wilson and Fong get snubbed? The answer is ABORTION. Both Wilson and Fong are PRO-CHOICE Republicans. For the CRA, having a PRO-LIFE stand is a litmus test. Proof of that came when PRO-LIFE State Sen. Marian Bergeson of Newport Beach easily defeated PRO-CHOICE State Sen. John Seymour of Anaheim in the endorsement contest for Lt. Governor...

...Wilson's staff is trying to spin the snub as best they can, but there's no denying the fact that hardline conservatives still have a very tough time when it comes to supporting Wilson. And least anyone forget, it is usually the dedicated hardliners who walk the precincts and man the phone banks. This group is VERY important to the success of the Republican Party...

...The impact of the snub won't be felt in the primary, but it has to be of concern to top RNC officials who have targeted Calif. as its NUMBER ONE priority in 1990...

...Just how conservative is the CRA? Most CALPEEK sources agree the group is now dominated by the Pat Robertson/religious right segment of the Republican Party in Calif. Oddly enough, until a few years ago, the CRA was a more mainstream, "traditional" Republican organization. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, the volunteer group that dominated ultra-conservative politics in Calif.s' GOP was United Republicans of CA,

or UROC. This group is now defunct. By the mid-1970s, CRA was the dominate GOP volunteer group...

...With the religious right now in control of the CRA, some CRA members have formed their own new organization, The CA Congress of Republicans(CCR). James Bratt, a former CRA treasurer is the group's new president. Five former CRA presidents are in this new group, which claims about 15 units and 500 members. They have applied to the CRP for official status...

...Bottomline: Several CRA sources told CALPEEK that had GOP gubernatorial write-in candidate Bill Allen, a U.S. Civil Rights Commissioner, been on the ballot as an official challenger to Wilson, there was a very good chance he might have won CRA's endorsement. But CRA by-laws prevent write in candidates from getting a CRA endorsement. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 1990: REPUBLICAN GROUPS ENDORSE.

Editor's note: Here is the full rundown on who the CRA and CCR endorsed at their most recent conventions. The CA Republican League(CRL) is scheduled to have their endorsement convention April 28 at the L.A. Airport Marriott Hotel...

CALIF. REPUBLICAN ASSEMBLY

Governor - No Endorsement
LG - Marian Bergeson
AG - Dan Lungren
Treas.- Angela Buchanan
Sec. of State - Gordon Levy
Controller - No Endorsement
Insur. Comm. - Wes Bannister

CALIF. CONGRESS OF REPUBLICANS

Governor - Pete Wilson
LG - John Seymour
AG - Dan Lungren
Treas.- Tom Hayes
Sec. of State - Joan Flores
Controller - Matthew Fong
Insur. Comm. - Tom Skornia

PUC's MITCH WILK TO ADDRESS BAPAC APR. 12.

Calif. PUC President Mitch Wilk will be the featured speaker at the Bay Area Public Affairs Council Apr. 12 lunch, St. Francis Hotel, S.F. 11:30 a.m. reception, 12 noon luncheon. For Info contact Denise Bartoni at (415)271-7228...

L.A. COUNTY SUPERVISOR RACE NOT HOT, YET.

With campaign time cut to just 11 weeks or so, you'd think the 10 candidates running to replace retiring L.A. County Sup. Pete Schabarum would be making more noise. But as a group, they're not. The campaign has been remarkably quiet, given the importance of this office. HOWEVER, most CALPEEK insiders predict the silence will soon give way to a very loud and noisy campaign...

...Is there a leading contender among this huge field of candidates? Not really, although at least two of the candidates, Schabarum's former asst. chief deputy Sarah Flores and L.A. Superior Court Judge Greg O'Brien, have polling data which supports their respective claims to the title, "leading contender." The Flores poll taken by Joe Shumate has her with a 2-1 lead over O'Brien. The opposite is true with the O'Brien poll by Arnold Steinberg...

..."Both polls are inconclusive because it is just too early in this campaign," says consultant Jerry Seedborg, who has just signed on to manage the campaign of Monrovia Mayor Robert Bartlett, a Black Republican who has already rounded up endorsements from 5 area mayors and 20 local councilmembers. Seedborg is probably correct in his assessment. It is too early...

...Most CALPEEK sources agree that this contest to replace Schabarum will be waged by FOUR candidates: the three just mentioned and former Congressman Jim Lloyd of West Covina, a Demo-turned-GOPer. The only question is how this field of four will finish when the ballots are cast in June. Given that Schabarum is backing O'Brien, while Supes. Deane Dana and Mike Antonovich are strongly behind Flores, many think these two will finish one-two...

...While the 1st Supervisorial District is considered safe conservative turf, the registration has a somewhat surprising Demo advantage: 50% Demo to 41% GOP, with 9% others. So while it is a given that a Republican will win Schabarum's seat (because all four leading contenders are GOPers), one can't dismiss the Democratic vote...

...What about all the Hispanics who live in the district? So far, Flores has NOT won any major endorsements from leading

Hispanic politicians. She's a Republican and most of the Hispanics who now hold elective office are Demos. It does lend some credibility to the charge that the reapportionment lawsuit now being heard in Federal Court is somewhat on the weak side - the charge being that those behind the suit indeed want a Hispanic on the Board, but a Democratic Hispanic, not a Republican Hispanic...

...CALPEEK will update this story again in the very near future when these various campaigns kick into high gear...

CAMPAIGN 1990: DEATH PENALTY & POLITICS.

Editor's note: In the 1988 presidential election it was the name WILLIE HORTON that became familiar to millions of American voters. In 1990, millions of California voters undoubtedly recognize the name ROBERT ALTON HARRIS, the San Diego killer whose execution was just postponed. Here is CALPEEK's analysis & commentary...

...There's no doubt that the death penalty as an issue will have a significant impact on the upcoming election thanks to Harris. The issue itself doesn't present a problem to either U.S. Sen. Pete Wilson, the likely Republican gubernatorial nominee, or to former S.F. Mayor Dianne Feinstein(D). Both are solid advocates of the death penalty...

...But Demo AG John Van de Kamp, DiFi's key rival for governor in the June primary, has a problem. From his TV spots, you'd think he was a true believer when it comes to the death penalty. Not so. While he has promised to vigorously carry out the will of the people, personally he is OPPOSED to capital punishment. To VdK's credit, he has not flipped-flopped on this long-held belief, even though it hurts politically...

...Many CALPEEK sources think the problem would have TOTALLY disappeared for VdK had that one federal judge and then the U.S. Supreme Court allowed Harris to be executed on Apr. 3rd as previously scheduled. But as everyone knows, that was not to be...

...So as of now, VdK is stuck in "The Twilight Zone," a period of time between the next decision and perhaps the eventual execution of Harris at San Quentin. Politic-

ally, it is an UNSAFE period of time for Van de Kamp. And he is getting bashed. For example, the L.A. Daily News ran an editorial called, "Hypocrite for Governor?" As the editorial points out, "...to run a campaign based on a pledge to act against your own conscience hardly embodies leadership." And that's the problem for VdK summed up in one sentence. Can a TV spot reverse the negatives? Stay tuned...

LOVE TO LEAVE L.A. TIMES FOR McCLATCHY JOB.
Veteran political writer Keith Love will be leaving his post at the L.A. Times at the end of the month for management job at the McClatchy Newspapers to learn the business side of the newspapers. Love has been with the L.A. Times since 1979 and has been covering politics since 1983...

NEED TO TELEPHONE ONE OF THE CANDIDATES???
Editor's note: Here are the phone numbers for Statewide candidates:

GOVERNOR:

John Van de Kamp(D)	(916)441-1995 (213)314-1990
Dianne Feinstein(D)	(415)433-1333 (213)382-1990
Pete Wilson(R)	(619)260-1990 (916)446-5140

LT. GOVERNOR:

Leo McCarthy(D-Inc.)	(415)621-8718 (213)642-1889
Marian Bergeson(R)	(213)276-8898 (415)773-8210
John Seymour(R)	(714)634-1235

ATTORNEY GENERAL:

Dan Lungren(R)	(916)448-5738
Arlo Smith(D)	(800)FON-ARLO (415)255-1445
Ira Reiner(D)	(213)683-8846

SECRETARY OF STATE:

March Fong Eu(D-Inc.)	(916)447-7415
Joan Milke Flores(R)	(213)832-9528
Gordon Levy(R)	(805)273-5031

TREASURER:

Tom Hayes(R-Inc.)	(916)448-5746
Bay Buchanan(R)	(714)251-1990
Kathleen Brown(D)	(213)930-2070
Westly Sanders(D)	(213)638-1632

CONTROLLER:

Gray Davis(D-Inc.)	(213)478-6602
Matthew Fong(R)	(818)793-FONG

INSURANCE COMMISSIONER:

Wes Bannister(R)	(714)675-0015
Tom Skornia(R)	(408)289-8376
Michael Blanco(D)	(818)281-7522
Ray Bourhis(D)	(415)392-4660
Conway Collis(D)	(916)446-6667
John Garamendi(D)	(916)446-6881
Bill Press(D)	(213)962-4412
Walter Zelman(D)	(213)470-8110

GOV. PAT BROWN's 85th BIRTHDAY PARTY BASH.

Mark Apr. 24 on your calendar for former Gov. Edmund G. (Pat) Brown's 85th birthday party at the CA Railroad Museum in Old Sacramento. MC will be Assembly Speaker Willie Brown. Special guests: AG John Van De Kamp, former S.F. Mayor Dianne Feinstein and via videotape, U.S. Sen. Pete Wilson. 6:30 p.m. reception, 7:30 p.m. dinner. \$250 per person/\$125 for non-profits. For info (916)454-3238 (Bobbie Metzger) or (213)343-3770 (Dr. Eric Schockman)...



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